

to turn into a racial debate, but Senator Chambers has some points, and I think Senator Chambers and some other folks should support this issue because it is presently being paid by the property tax, and if you put a fee on, it will not be paid with a property tax, it will be paid with the tax they put on to pick it up, and I think the property tax should reduce the amount of money that they charge the folks in taxes. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Haberman. I will now recognize senators in the following order, Senator Morrissey, Chambers, Pirsch, and Horgan. Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Madam President and members. Now this, Senator Haberman, this is fine. I can support this. This is, again, the heart of what I am trying to get at is clearly identifying costs. Under the present system, Senator Chambers has no idea if his people are being short-changed or getting a good deal, and I tried to find out how we could figure that out, and Senator Chambers is right, we can't figure it out. Under the system I prefer to move to, we can clearly identify what is happening in solid waste. Again, we...the people of Omaha are paying light bills. I don't believe that is hidden in their property taxes. They are paying heating bills, electricity bills, and water bills. I don't believe those are hidden in their property taxes. They are clearly identified. This is the same thing. We must quit thinking of solid waste as a freebie or something that isn't a vital public service, it is. Now we must address the management, the proper management and the proper funding of taking care of that waste in the proper manner. Senator Haberman is suggesting we go just a little bit farther, we allow Omaha to charge a fee-based system, but we take away the money that they were previously using to support solid waste management. Now that is fine with me because all I want to do is clearly identify costs and what they are being used for. Senator Haberman, he will make the city council, make the mayor go to the people if this amendment is adopted and say, if they want another \$8 million to use somewhere else besides solid waste, they will have to clearly identify where that money will come from and where it will be going, and that is just fine with me. Because my main intent is to establish a system where we know if it is fair for the people in Senator Horgan's District or Senator Chambers's District, we can clearly tell. Because as it is now, Senator Chambers's constituents could be supporting business for their waste disposal fees. We don't